

VZCZCXRO1281  
PP RUEHDBU RUEHROV  
DE RUEHMO #5457 3241541  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 201541Z NOV 07  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5361  
INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE  
RUEHXD/MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 005457

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/20/2017  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#) [RS](#)  
SUBJECT: RUSSIAN PROPOSAL FOR MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS' MEETING

Classified By: Political M/C Alice G. Wells for reasons 1.4 (b/d).

[¶](#)1. (C) On November 19, Counselor in the MFA Middle East Peace Settlement Office Timur Zabiroy elaborated on GOR interest in holding a high-level experts' meeting on the Middle East Peace Process in Moscow following the Annapolis Conference. The GOR intended this forum to maintain momentum toward a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement. Zabiroy said that the GOR had determined neither the list of attendees nor the agenda for the experts' meeting, both of which would depend upon the outcome at Annapolis. Zabiroy stressed that press reports on the alleged statement by Deputy Foreign Minister Saltanov that Russia intended to convene a "regional summit" were inaccurate and that the DFM had only referred to the GOR proposal for an experts' meeting.

[¶](#)2. (C) Zabiroy explained that the proposed Moscow meeting was not new and that the GOR had first offered it as early as [¶](#)2005. If the experts' meeting made progress, the GOR could conceivably sponsor a regional conference to address a variety of issues including Israeli disputes with Lebanon and Syria. Zabiroy stressed that the GOR understood that progress on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was the "key" to settling other issues.

[¶](#)3. (C) Zabiroy told us that the GOR delegation to Annapolis would consist of Foreign Minister Lavrov, DFM Saltanov and Special Representative for the Middle East Sergey Yakovlev. The MFA welcomed confirmation of a meeting between Lavrov and the Secretary on November 26.  
BURNS